

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method for producing an  $\alpha$ -alumina particulate comprising steps of (Ia) and (Ib), ~~or a step of (II):~~  
  
    (Ia) removing water from a mixture containing water, a seed crystal and a hydrolysate obtained by hydrolysis of an aluminum compound under conditions of a pH of 5 or less and a temperature of 60°C or less,  
  
    (Ib) calcining the resulted powder,  
  
    ~~(II) calcining a mixed powder containing 75-1 wt% of an  $\alpha$ -alumina precursor (in terms of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) and 25-99 wt% of a seed crystal (in terms of oxide of metal component).~~
2. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the aluminum compound in the step (Ia) is an aluminum salt or an aluminum alkoxide.
3. (original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the aluminum salt is at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum inorganic salts and aluminum organic salts.

4. (original): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the aluminum inorganic salt is at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum nitrate, aluminum sulfate, aluminum ammonium sulfate and ammonium aluminum carbonate hydroxide.

5. (original): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the aluminum organic salt is at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxalate, aluminum acetate, aluminum stearate, aluminum lactate and aluminum laurate.

6. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein a base is added to ~~an~~ the aluminum compound before hydrolysis thereof in the step (Ia).

7. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrolysate and the seed crystal are dispersed in water in the step (Ia).

8. (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of hydrolysate (in terms of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ )/seed crystal (in terms of oxide of metal component) is 99-1 wt%/1-99 wt% in the step (Ia).

9. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of water is 150-1000 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the total amount of the hydrolysate and the seed crystal in the step (Ia).

10-11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the seed crystal in the step (Ia)-~~or (H)~~ is a metal oxide.

13. (original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the metal oxide is at least one selected from the group consisting of alumina, iron oxide and chromium oxide.

14. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein calcination is conducted at 600-1000°C in the step (Ib)-~~or (H)~~.